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THE NEW YORK CHAPTER

(Summary of the year's work of the New York Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish.)

Rare good fortune has attended the New York Chapter in having for its place of meeting throughout the year, the grand salon of the Hispanic Society of America, through the courtesy of the Honorable Archer M. Huntington. In this ideal atmosphere, in the presence of the Sorolla portraits of King Alfonso XIII and Queen Victoria of Spain, the progressive teachers of Spanish of New York City and vicinity have taken up important problems affecting the study of Spanish and have done real constructive work which will be of value to teachers of Spanish throughout the country.

In summarizing the successes of the year, a great deal of credit is due to the President of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish, Mr. Lawrence A. Wilkins, in charge of Modern Languages in New York City, whose work in founding the association paved the way for the local chapter, making clear the need for co-operation of the teachers of Spanish in meeting the specific problems confronting them and in creating a feeling of harmonious good-will toward other educational organizations.

With the establishing of the New York Chapter in 1917, a worthy continuator appeared in the person of the President, Dr. Guillermo A. Sherwell. The meetings of the year have been characterized as helpful and inspiring. Enthusiasm has never ebbed, as shown by the constantly increasing attendance at the sessions. Peculiar problems have presented themselves and have been treated with a view to larger educational interests. On the programs have appeared speakers distinguished in the literary and academic world.

At the October meeting, at which Mr. Lawrence A. Wilkins presided, a most interesting lecture on "Contemporary Spanish Poets" was given by Professor Federico de Onís, of Columbia University.

The literary program of November was ably upheld by a speech from Señor Manuel González, ex-Consul General from Costa Rica. At the meeting the following officers were elected for the local chapter: President, Dr. Guillermo A. Sherwell, New Utrecht High

School; Vice-President, Mr. Max A. Luria, De Witt Clinton High School; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Gracia L. Fernández, New Utrecht High School; Corresponding Secretary, Mr. Arturo Torres, De Witt Clinton High School.

At the January meeting, President Sherwell outlined briefly the work of the local chapter. The Vice-President, Mr. Max A. Luria, gave a helpful presentation of a practical subject, "The Importance of Dictation in the Teaching of Spanish in Secondary Schools." The business meeting which followed was given over to the discussion of plans for the Second Annual Prize Contest for Students of Spanish in the Secondary Schools of New York City and New Jersey.

The speaker at the February session was Señor José Marcial Dorado, with the subject, "El Periodismo actual en España." Señor Dorado gave some very interesting data regarding the extension of institutions of learning in Spain under the influence of journalism. Mr. Luria continued his interesting talk of the January meeting. Dr. Alfred Coester, Chairman of the Spanish Contest Committee, announced that the contest for Spanish Students in High Schools would take place Saturday morning, April 13th, at the High School of Commerce, New York.

A rich program awaited those assembled at the April session. The speaker of the day was Señor Don José Castellot, ex-President of the Senate of Mexico and ex-Ambassador Extraordinary from Mexico to Norway. Señor Castellot spoke on "El español como lengua literaria," using his beautiful Spanish version of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. Enthusiastic applause greeted the poet translator at frequent intervals. After President Sherwell had paid homage to Señor Castellot in the name of the Chapter, Dr. Rafael Zayas Enríquez presented an eloquent tribute to the genius of his fellow poet.

The May meeting brought two speakers of distinction. Dr. Constantine McGuire, Assistant Secretary of the International High Commission, Washington, D. C., treated a scholarly theme, "The Science of Law in Spain; History and Appreciation." Dr. McGuire was followed by Dr. Rafael Zayas Enríquez, whose subject was "Los poetas son los perfeccionadores del idioma." His theme was developed with great strength without losing a single poetic charm. At the business meeting it was voted to hold an extra ses-

sion in the month of June to meet the enthusiastic demands not only of the members of the Chapter but of others interested in Spanish.

It was voted unanimously that in virtue of the distinguished services which Mr. Lawrence A. Wilkins, now in charge of Modern Languages in New York City, has contributed to the teaching of Spanish and to the realization and the defense of the ideals of teachers of Spanish, that a letter be sent by the Executive Committee in the name of the New York Chapter to President Somers of the Board of Education, requesting the appointment of Mr. Wilkins as permanent director of Modern Languages in New York City. Then followed the election of officers for the year 1918-19, resulting in the reëlection of all this year's officers.

At the special session held in June, Señorita Carolina Marcial Dorado spoke on "La Mujer española," the important rôle played by the Spanish woman in the world's history and her position at the present day.

The second speaker, Dr. José Castellot, Jr., gave a scholarly lecture on "España en América," which was greatly appreciated.

With all due modesty, I think I may hold the New York Chapter as a model of enthusiastic organization for teachers of Spanish in other cities. It is gratifying to learn that Chapters are to be organized in September in Illinois, Indiana, Texas and California, and I feel confident that the time is not far distant when the "Todos a Una" of the emblem of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish will blazon the path to a local Chapter in every principal city of the country.

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